

There is probably another change required in our nomenclature of this genus; certainly so if, as some think, *M. g. ellioti* of SENNETT, 1892, is synonymous with his *M. g. intermedia* of 1879.

Agriocharis ocellata is a term which has been applied to the Honduras Turkey, which differs superspecifically from *M. gallopavo* in the lack of pectoral bristles, peculiar carunculation of the head, long sharp spurs of the male, and ocellation of some portions of the plumage, as set forth by CHAPMAN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. viii, 1896, p. 288.

SOME ABNORMAL COLOR MARKINGS.

BY GERRIT S. MILLER, JR.

MANY instances of albinism, melanism, and other abnormal color conditions in birds have been recorded,¹ but these records are for the most part concerned with cases in which large, conspicuous, and indefinite areas of the plumage are affected. While such abnormalities are interesting they are greatly outweighed in importance by others, usually of a less noticeable character, in which the unusual markings are so arranged as to resemble normal color patterns. Suggestions of characters of related species are often to be found in these symmetrical markings, some of which might be regarded as the result of hybridism did not the well known hypothesis of atavism offer a more satisfactory explanation of their occurrence. I wish to call attention to a few of the more conspicuous among the many cases of this kind that have come to my notice.

Colaptes auratus (Linn.).

An adult Flicker (No. 5619, Miller collection, purchased many years ago in the New York markets by J. G. Bell), normal in

¹ See, for instance, Deane, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, I, pp. 20-24, IV, pp. 27-30; Brewster, Auk, XII, pp. 99-100; Toppan, Bull. Ridgway Orn. Club, No. 2, pp. 61-77.

every other way, has all the white feathers of the rump marked subterminally with round or subcordate spots of black. The larger feathers of the rump are in addition crossed or nearly crossed by from one to three black bars, each of which tends to narrow near the shaft so that occasionally the constriction divides the bar into two distinct spots.

In the Cuban *Colaptes chrysocaulosus* the color is similar to that of *C. auratus* except that it is everywhere strongly suffused with tawny, the black markings are more extended, and the feathers of the white rump patch are closely and irregularly barred with black. Each rump feather in this species has a subterminal broadly cordate black spot extending nearly across both webs. Usually a broad black bar and sometimes a second (the latter always indistinct) crosses the feather below the terminal spot. The proximal bars tend to narrow near the shafts of the feathers, but they seldom if ever break up into pairs of spots as in the abnormal *C. auratus*.

The peculiarities of its rump markings make No. 5619 an almost perfect intermediate between *Colaptes auratus* and *C. chrysocaulosus*. Did the breeding ranges of these two species overlap this specimen would probably be considered by many a hybrid, since so-called hybrids often blend the characters of their supposed parents no more perfectly than this Flicker does the peculiarities of the Continental bird and its Cuban representative.

***Nucifraga columbiana* (Wils.).**

One Clarke's Nutcracker in the series of thirty-three skins in the U. S. National Museum (No. 99858, Mt. Lassen, Calif., June 23, 1884) has most of the greater and lesser wing-coverts spotted with white. The spots, though small, form wing bars nearly as distinct as those normally present in the European *Nucifraga caryocatactes*. The wing-coverts in adult *N. columbiana* are normally plain, but the extreme tips in immature birds are usually very pale gray, thus forming a distinct contrast with the rest of the feather.

***Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Vieill.).**

A Towhee from North Truro, Mass. (♂ ad., No. 4208, Miller collection, August 12, 1889) is normal in all respects except that

the scapulars on each side are conspicuously edged with white. The marking is only slightly less extensive than in a specimen of *Pipilo maculatus oregonus* taken at Victoria, B. C., on August 1, 1888. Eastern Towhees with spotted scapulars have been recorded before but such specimens are always of interest.

Junco hyemalis (Linn.).

An eastern Junco (♂ ad., No. 4956, Miller collection, North Truro, Mass., April 12, 1890) has the wing-coverts tipped with white so that two distinct bars are formed in each wing when the feathers are properly arranged. These bars are narrower than in most specimens of the western *Junco aikenii*, but I have seen individuals of the latter in which they are less well developed than in the North Truro bird. Juncos with white wing bars have been found in the Eastern States before but they are of very rare occurrence.

Piranga erythromelas Vieill.

Three adult male Scarlet Tanagers in the collection of Dr. A. K. Fisher have conspicuous wing markings strongly suggestive of those normally present in the western *Piranga ludoviciana*. In two of these birds (No. 4017, Washington, D. C., May 18, 1890, and another taken at Sing Sing, N. Y., on May 22, 1880) the greater coverts are almost wholly bright scarlet. In the other (No. 919, Sing Sing, N. Y., May 16, 1881) the greater coverts are gamboge yellow narrowly edged with black. The yellow is brighter than that occupying the same position in *P. ludoviciana* but the bar formed by it is not so broad as that of the western bird.

Ampelis cedrorum (Vieill.).

An adult Cedar Bird (No. 5481, Miller collection, Providence, R. I., February 18, 1886, J. M. Southwick), otherwise normal, has the flight feathers in each wing spotted subterminally with dull grayish white. These markings are as nearly alike on corresponding feathers of the opposite wings as is ever the

case with a normal bilaterally symmetrical color pattern. On the distal primary the spot is very indistinct and nearly confined to the inner web where it occupies a space 3 mm. long (measured at the shaft) and 4 mm. from the tip of the feather. Toward the inner margin of the web the spot narrows rapidly and disappears without reaching the edge of the feather. On the outer web there is the faintest possible suggestion of a grayish trace close to the shaft and opposite the spot on the inner web. On the second and third primaries the spots become more distinct and extend nearly to the margin of the inner web. On the third primary the spot is 5 mm. long and 5 mm. from the tip of the feather. On the fourth primary in each wing the spot appears distinctly on the outer web, and from here on the portion of the spot on the outer web becomes larger and more conspicuous, that on the inner web at the same time diminishing until on the proximal true flight feather there is no mark at all on the inner web. The penultimate feather shows a trace of white on the inner web in the right wing, but none in the left, and the last spot is slightly larger in the right wing than in the left, otherwise the markings are exactly alike on the opposite wings.

While these markings have all the characteristics of a normal color pattern there is no known relative of the Cedar Bird with wings spotted in an analogous manner.

THE TERNS OF PENIKESE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

“In the lap of sheltering seas
Rests the isle of Penikese.”

The Prayer of Agassiz,

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

IF THE reader will glance at the southern portion of a map of New England, it will be seen that there is a string of sixteen